



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re the Application of

Hiroto HORIKAWA

Application No.: 09/139,296

Filed: August 25, 1998

For: STAGE UNIT, DRIVE TABLE, AND SCANNING EXPOSURE APPARATUS USING
SAME

Group Art Unit: 2851

Examiner: P. Kim

Docket No.: 101809.01

#24
5/20/03
JP

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance or other action that closes prosecution (e.g., Quayle Action).
- ☒ a. Attached is our check no. 140978 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 15-0461 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.
- ☒ 2. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mario A. Costantino

Registration No. 33,565

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Date: April 3, 2003

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SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant submits the attached Decision of the European Patent Office Opposition Division rejecting the Opposition of European Patent EP-B-0 772 800, which is the European counterpart of U.S. Patent No. 5,767,948, from which claims have been copied into the present application. As indicated in pages 5-6 of Applicant's March 17, 2003 Response, claims that are substantially similar to independent claims 28 and 30 of the present application were asserted to be unpatentable over the Japanese counterpart (referenced as D4 in the Opposition Division Decision) of the Nishi 304 patent, relied upon by the Examiner to reject claims 28 and 30. The Opposition Division has determined that the claims of the European patent are novel and involve inventive step over D4 alone or combined with D6 (USP 5,260,580 - previously considered by the Patent Office during prosecution of this application). See, for example, part 4 of the European Opposition Division's Decision, spanning pages 5-7.

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The attached Information Disclosure Statement forwards copies of additional references identified in the Opposition Division's Decision, which have not been previously made of record during prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Decision of European Opposition Division
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: April 3, 2003

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